

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

The CQWW Phone contest has come and gone and so has round one of the CDXA Intra Club Contest. I hope everyone had fun in the contest and has submitted their summary sheet to Ted, W4VHF, by now. If not, you need to do so immediately. We want to award the prizes to the winners at the CDXA Christmas Party and Annual Meeting.

Speaking of the Christmas Party and Annual Meeting, this year's event will be held at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Rock Hill, SC. Here are the details:

What: The CDXA Christmas Party and Annual Meeting

When: Thursday Night, December 14, 2000
Cash Bar/Social begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.

Where: The Branding Iron Restaurant
3040 Cherry Road
Rock Hill, S.C.
803/366-1949

Price: \$15.00 per plate, tip included

N4PQX	Bob Burton	President
W4WNT	Bill Turner	Vice-Pres.
W4NZC	Ken Cannaday	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Sysop
AE4PB	Jerry Moore	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Menu: Your choice of either Prime Rib, Chicken, or Flounder/Shrimp combo, Tea/Soft Drinks included. Bar Drinks and desserts are extra. Please RSVP to Bill Turner, W4WNT, with number of attendees and entrée choice as soon as possible.

Directions: From Charlotte, take I-77 south to the Sutton Road Exit in South Carolina. Turn Left onto Sutton Road going south for approximately 1 mile. Turn right onto US 21 and go southbound. Once you cross the Catawba River bridge, the Branding Iron is on your left. If you have any trouble, there will be many people on the 147.18 repeater who can help, or simply call the restaurant at the number listed above for directions.

Just a reminder that your 2001 CDXA membership dues are due. Since there is no newsletter in December we are including a SAE for your convenience to go to Ken Cannaday, W4NZC.

As you know, I have decided not to run for re-election in 2001. Therefore, at our last Executive Committee Meeting of this year, we formed a Nominating Committee comprised of Roger, N4ZC, and Gary, K4MQG. If you have recommendations for officer positions, please contact these members. It's been my pleasure to serve you for the past two years along with my fellow officers. We've upgraded the Packet Cluster to include internet capabilities, created

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

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CDXA logo embroidered clothing, and CDXA name badges. We standardized the newsletter to PDF format to make accessing the newsletter via the CDXA web page easier for everyone. We have also started intra-club contests around the major contest events to encourage contesting efforts. Be an active part of the CDXA and let your 2001 officers know what you'd like to see the CDXA do, or become an officer yourself and make it happen!

Until then, see you in the Pileups and at the Christmas Party...73's Bob – N4PQX

CQ Worldwide Contest - CW Coming!!!

The second of two bigger autumn contests is coming at the end of November. Beginning at 0000Z on November 25 will be the annual CW version of the CQ Worldwide Amateur Radio Contest. The contest runs for 48 hours, so get your supply of Coca-Cola, Mountain Dew, No-Doz, and coffee replenished before that time.

As outlined in last month's **Pileup**, there are eight awards still up for grabs in the "contest within the contest" being run by Carolina DX Association. There is something in this contest for everyone. First, there is the contest itself for you as an individual competing with the world's best amateur radio operators. Second, there is a competition between operators within CDXA for eight awards. Third, your entry in the CQWW contest on behalf of CDXA puts all of us in the competition for active contesting clubs. Finally, in honing your CW skills, you again have the chance to work DXCC in a single weekend.

Please reread the October **Pileup** (available on our website) for the full entry requirements. Copies of Summary sheets must be submitted to Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF by December 29 for the CW contest (November 27 for the SSB contest). You must enter the CQWW contest as an affiliated member of CDXA. Ted's email address is: tgoldthorpe@infoave.net.

The awards will be as follows:

Unlimited Class (>500,000 Points)

Assisted Champion	Unassisted Champion
Plaques	
Assisted Runner-up	Unassisted Runner-up
Certificates	

Limited Class (< 500,000 Points)

Assisted Champion	Unassisted Champion
Plaques	
Assisted Runner-up	Unassisted Runner-up
Certificates	

Announced operations from Malaysia, Philippines, Maldives, Morocco, Uruguay, China, Estonia, Svalbard, Mariana Islands, Aland Islands, Saudi Arabia, and many more have been made. See <http://www.his.com/~feidt/Misc/cqc2000.html> for a current list.

See you in the contest!!!



Happy as a Pig (er....Ham) in mud!

Being in the middle of the peak of the sunspot cycle makes hams feel like a "pig in mud". After what seemed like a summer of solar storms and proton events the bands have been somewhat decent of late. It is good to see the "A factor" below 15 to 20 on a somewhat regular basis.

I don't have a station with "six over six over six" and a linear amplifier. One hundred watts into a vertical is my "burden in life". That makes it all the more fun when I snag a new one. Just before the CQWW-SSB contest, I managed a QSO with Eritrea, E30TA. Then only four minutes before K5K went QRT from Kingman, I managed an SSB contact. This, on the heels of a CW contact with K5K the evening before. (Yes, Joe and Rod, you may yet convince me that "without a key, it's just CB"!) I also worked D44CF from Cape Verde on CW for a new one. Now if only I could copy CW at 25+ WPM to find out how to QSL? At least I'm happy and getting my feet muddy!! —The Editor

COMMENTS CQWW 2000 SSB CONTEST

By Henry Elwell, N4UH

Contests are an ego trip! We go into them to try to show others we are better than they are. And we see our callsigns in print proving we are—hopefully. Of course there are others who go in for different reasons, but the winners and the also-rans are in it for the ego trip. At 81, why do I go to bed at 3 AM, and get up at 6 AM just to tell a lot of guys they are 5905? I do it because I did it last year and the previous year, et cetera, and I can't let people think I'm no longer capable of doing a good job. Having said that, let me brag about some things that happened to me during the contest.

At the end of the Contest I asked myself, "Is greater participation good?" The answer is no! There were so many guys on the air, there were no clear frequencies on 10, 15, or 20 meters, wall-to-wall when active, for me to call CQ and make runs with my 100 watts. So my major effort was hunt and pounce ending up with 960 Qs and 415 multipliers for a score of 1.11 megs. I had 1041 Qs last year, so the participation must be greater this year. Greater participation is bad!

But I had fun! What a thrill to hear VQ9GB running Europeans on 15 meters, and after two calls from me have him come back and say, "You're coming in over the Europeans, what are you using?" I nonchalantly said, "Only 100 watts and a rhombic." And on 40 meters, it was rare for me to have to call twice to work Europe using the rhombic. To work the South Americans or Caribbean took more effort since I have to use a quarter wave vertical for other directions. But I did get a JA Sunday morning; a tough one for me.

Another bragging thrill - Sunday afternoon, around 1930Z, 15 meters, wall to wall stations calling CQ, and I was tuning up the band using the 1 kHz/rotation feature of the TS850 so as not to miss the weak ones. With the 60 foot high TH7 pointed in the Zone 31 area, I heard a weak station calling CQ Contest. He was signing K5K; Kingman Reef. Wow, but I did not want to get into that pileup! But he kept calling CQ with no takers, so I called him, worked him, and left him calling "CQ Contest" with no takers!

And what a nice thrill to hear FS/K4ZA (worked him on three bands); he's a really dedicated contester. No chit chat, just "N4UH 5908" and on to the next. Once I was lucky when he paused in his run on one band, and said something to the effect everybody stand by, he had to change something. In the 5 second silence

I said, "Don't forget Uncle Henry." He came back with a, "We'll never forget Uncle Henry, you're 5908", and away he went into his run.

Now Roger is different, but the circumstances were also. I worked him once on 15 meters, PJ7/N4ZC. He stopped to talk to me! However, I had worked him at a crucial time. He said, "Henry your contact has put me at the 6 million mark!" He had over 4,000 Qs at that moment, and I was struggling at the 933 point. Roger is quite modest though, as he explained his score was not a competitive one. What does it take to have a competitive score?

The other thing that excited me was listening to the mushy 20 meter band at around 1200Z Sunday morning. I could hear a very weak RZ9, Zone 18, with the rhombic firing north east. I reversed it to fire long path, and there he was, readable and workable. I picked up a dozen of Zone 16 in that direction while getting Zones 27, 30, 31, and 32, which is the normal direction for them. I wonder how many took advantage of the long path openings?

It was a great contest, I had fun, and will probably give it a go next year. How about you?



The CQ World Wide DX Contest was too much for him...

(Cartoon reprinted with permission of Kari Syrjanen, OH5YW)

Letters to the Editor....

The enumeration of DXCC counts has stirred a few out of silence. These stories seem to exist throughout the membership. We do have a rather unique group of DX hunters!

“.....ARRL has me listed as having 335 countries over all and 328 current. Since I submitted my additions to ARRL, I have received QSL confirmations from Bhutan and East Timor. Chesterfield Island is still outstanding. I expect to get it any day. This will bring my count to 331 current and 338 total. See you in the pileup. 73s, **Royce Goodwin, WA4AFE**—75 and still DXing.”

“....Well, my first DX contact was KZ5FP on the 80 Meter Novice Band in January 1962 and been pluggin’ away ever since. 160 and 80 are my favorite bands. Worked ZD9ZM the other night on 160 for number 272 (271 confirmed).

All caught up on 80 right now with 321 current (332 counting deletions) and 40 meters with 329 current (342 counting deletions).

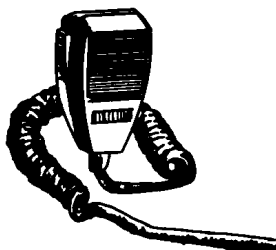
Did take time to submit for DXCC CHALLENGE so wonder how many will be in that group. —73 **Jack Jackson, N4JJ**”

“currently, I sit at 343/329 mixed. Tomorrow at lunch, I’m going to have Gary check 5 for me so I can get them in for this year’s listing. Only need BS7, P5, and VU/Andamans. (I have 4W6 and TX0 ready to go when accepted.)

....On phone I only need 8. I guess when I submit next year that it should put me at about 345/326. Needed are 3C0, BS7, BV9, FR/J, P5, R1FJ, T5, and VU/A.

Other info: I hold 5BDXCC #1629 and 5BWAS #322. I’m working on 5BWAZ with 10, 15, and 20 completed, waiting for cards from last 3 on 40, and need 8 on 80..... So there you have it. 73 de **Steve, KZ2I**”

I’ll wager there are stories like this all throughout the CDXA membership. Let’s hear from you.



International Phonetics

A discussion occurred at the luncheon on 1 November following the CQWW contest on the use of different phonetics for the alphabet in different languages. The following phonetics list is taken from The Radio Amateur’s Conversation Guide by OH1BR and OH2BAD, Published in 1980. Your editor presumes these reflect popular usage since the English/French usage below mirrors the International Telecommunications Union recommendations in effect in 1980.

Letter	Eng. /French	Italian	Spanish
A	Alfa	Alfa	Alfa
B	Bravo	Bravo	Brazil
C	Charlie	Canada	Canada
D	Delta	Delta	Delta
E	Echo	Europa	Espana
F	Foxtrot	Firenza	Francia
G	Golf	Guatemala	Guatemala
H	Hotel	Hotel	Hotel
I	India	Italia	Italia
J	Juliet	Juventus	Japan
K	Kilo	Kilometro	Kilo
L	Lima	Lima	Lima
M	Mike	Messico	Mexico
N	November	Novembre	Noviembre
O	Oscar	Otranto	Oscar
P	Papa	Palermo	Papa
Q	Quebec	Quebec	Quito
R	Romeo	Romeo	Radio
S	Sierra	Santiago	Santiago
T	Tango	Tango	Tango
U	Uniform	Universita	Universidad
V	Victor	Venezia	Victor
W	Whiskey	Whiskey	Whiskey
X	X-ray	Xilofono	Xilofono
Y	Yankee	Yokohama	Yucatan
Z	Zulu	Zelenda	Zulu

AA4S GOES WEST - Part I

By Ron Bailey, AA4S

Having been retired since 1996 and threatening all the while to do some traveling, I finally decided it was time. I used both the IRCA (International Radio Club of America) convention in Billings, Montana and the NRC (National Radio Club) convention in Lima, Ohio as excuses and planned a trip through 12 states requiring 4800 miles of driving in a 14- day period! The major activity within both clubs is MWLing (medium wave or AM broadcast band listening) although many of their members are also hams.

When Don Crain (W4OC) and I discussed my upcoming trip, he suggested hamming would minimize the agony of driving through "flyover states" like Nebraska and offered to loan me his Carolina Bugcatcher. Ted Cooke (KC4OPB) had already offered to loan me his Alinco DX-70TH so things were taking shape. I quickly fabricated a mount for the transceiver in my '93 Chevy S-10 Blazer. Don and I then spent the Friday afternoon before my departure mounting and tuning the antenna on 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters. It was then he said it might be fun to try getting on the County Hunter's net while mobiling through several of the rarer counties in SD, MT, and WY.

For the next few mornings I monitored their net on 14.336 MHz. to become procedure literate. During this time I spoke with two of the more avid Australian county hunters (VK4AAR and VK3MW) and actually made schedules to try to work them from four counties in SD which were on their "need" list. I was anxious to experience mobiling on HF frequencies for the first time.

I left Shelby, NC early Sunday morning August 20 logging 516 miles and stopping that night to stay with Dave Perry (N4QS) and his family in Paducah, KY. Some of you may recall Dave operating the CW SS from my QTH last November. When he was 12 years old he became the 80m CW operator at my M/M contest station in Pennsylvania. (I was WA3ATX, then N3RB, at that time; he was WA3HOM.) He is now 46 and is married with 2 children - how time flies! His 11 year old daughter plays classical piano and is presently learning morse code, hoping to acquire her license eventually.

Monday morning I headed out through the western part of Kentucky and began passing out contacts on the county hunter's net. It was a unique experience. I be-

gan by "running" Livingston, Crittenden, and Union counties which were needed by several VKs. I was impressed with how disciplined and well-run their net is. The rig and antenna were working perfectly. Next, it was over to Illinois and Missouri then, up through Iowa where I ran my favorite, Pottawattamie County.

The third day found me in South Dakota where I ran Minnehaha County then stayed with friends in Colton, SD. These were people I had met when their son, now 16, played baseball for me in Shelby as a 12-year-old. The father is a retired military man; he is familiar with amateur radio and some of the hobby's activities. So it was no surprise when I said I would have to leave the next morning at 5:30 a.m., drive 50+ miles, and be on the county line of Miner and Sanborn, SD by the time 20 meters opened into Australia!

When the band opened around 12:20 UTC (7:20 a.m. SD time), 5 VKs, OH3MMH, and JH8GWW were waiting for me as hoped. Signals from other parts of the world were just beginning to build. Oddly, only one W was worked. The next adventure was the 55 mile drive (at 135 km/hr - don't ask!) west on route 34 to the county line of Jerauld and Buffalo. Conditions had improved by this time and 7 VKs, 2 VEs, the JH, and 10 Ws were quickly logged. I was also able to run Brule County, but by the time I hit Lyman County the VK opening was gone.

Amateur Radio for Sailors

In the September, 1999 issue of the Pileup you'll recall that the sailing community has shown increasing interest in amateur radio. Well, the word regarding amateur radio license restructuring is really reaching the sailing community now. On page 54 of the October 2000 issue of SAIL magazine, contributing editor Gordon West lays out just how easy it is for the serious offshore sailor to acquire today's amateur radio license.

Walk-in examinations? Mr. West cited in this national publication for sailors that one could acquire his training materials and take the licensing examination at the Atlantic City Sail Expo. So, when you hear someone talking about being on a starboard tack for a 200 mile inter-island transit, you'll know the sailors are on the airwaves.

The Back Page

Please note that Ken Cannaday, W4NZC has taken over the reins of the Secretary-Treasurer with this issue of **The Pileup**. All address changes, dues questions, or club-related expense matters should be directed to Ken for resolution.

GET READY!!! The CQ Worldwide CW contest is set for November 25-26, 2000. As stated in last month's **Pileup**, there are really contests within the contest. Be sure to get your summary sheets to Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, as soon as possible after the contest. More information inside on Page 2.

THEN GET READY AGAIN!!! Here are the coming contests—one right after another. Since **The Pileup** won't be published again until January, you may wish to make note of these: (Reference is to the QST issue containing the details.)

December 1-3, 2000 - ARRL 160 meter Contest. An international CW contest for 160 meters. (Nov. QST)

December 9-10, 2000 - ARRL 10 meter Contest. An international CW and Phone contest for 10 meters.
These great 10 meter conditions won't go on forever, you know!! (Nov. QST)

January 1, 2001 - ARRL Straight Key Night. Get out that old Navy key and get ready to pound brass. Novice to Extra. This is a good old-fashioned fun event. (December QST)

January 6-7, 2001 - ARRL RTTY Roundup. Digital mode roundup. Use Baudot RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, and Packet on all bands. (December QST)

January 20-22, 2001 - ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Get out your gridsquare maps. 50Mhz and up Begins 1900 UTC on 20 January. (December QST)

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.